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U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

April 25, 2006

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Army provides cost benefit analysis report

Certifies to Congress that shipping wastewater to New Jersey for treatment and disposal has significant cost and schedule savings

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. — Today the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) announced the completion of its report, “Cost-Benefit Analysis of Off-Site Versus On-Site Treatment and Disposal of Newport Caustic Hydrolysate.” At the same time, the Army certified to Congress that shipping the wastewater from Indiana to DuPont’s Secure Environmental Treatment (SET) facility in New Jersey for final treatment and disposal is more efficient than on-site disposal methods.

The caustic wastewater, known as hydrolysate, is the byproduct from destroying the nerve agent VX at the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Indiana. It is a moderately corrosive material that is 85 percent water, 11 percent organic salts and four percent sodium hydroxide (caustic). In April 2005, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention concluded that the wastewater can be transported safely with the plans and procedures that will be in place, and the wastewater is not nerve agent and has no characteristics of nerve agent.

“As requested by Congress, the analyses of costs and benefits for eight on-site technologies were compared to the proposed off-site treatment of the Newport wastewater. The estimates for disposal off site at DuPont are at least \$347 million less than the on-site alternatives and could reduce the disposal schedule by as much as 57 months when compared to those alternatives,” said Col. Jesse L. Barber, CMA’s Alternative Technologies and Approaches Project manager.

“This demonstrates that our proposal for off-site treatment provides significant and substantial benefit to the taxpayer,” he stated.

The May 20, 2005, “Committee Report 109-89 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, Report of the Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives on H.R. 1815” directed the Army to conduct the analysis and provide cost savings certification.



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The analysis examined the costs associated with putting into place one of several alternative technologies on site at Newport to treat the wastewater and compared them with the proposal to have the wastewater transported to, and treated at, DuPont's SET facility in New Jersey. The eight technologies considered were: chemical oxidation, wet-air oxidation, electrochemical oxidation, supercritical water oxidation, solvated-electron technology, gas phase chemical reduction, plasma arc technology, and biodegradation.

Copies of a publicly releasable portion of the cost benefit analysis report as well as other information on CMA, may be obtained or viewed at the CMA Web site at www.cma.army.mil.

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The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) is a dedicated team whose expertise and oversight sets the standards of excellence and leadership in safely storing the nation's aging chemical weapons and developing programs aimed at effectively recovering, treating and ultimately eliminating the nation's chemical warfare materiel. CMA personnel also enhance national security by providing specialized products and capabilities to our nation's Warfighters, and homeland defense and response capabilities. CMA encourages public participation and is committed to worker and public safety, and environmental stewardship. For more information about CMA and its programs, visit www.cma.army.mil.



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